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determination that the face of the earth shall no longer be ravaged by these inhuman phenomena.

Other arguments, of course, are in place. War is waste, irrationality, colossal folly. In the present state of men's moral development these arguments are even more effective than the one of which we are speaking. They are possibly, therefore, more practical, and should be used for all they are worth in the "war against war." But the final argument against war is found in its deeds,—its butcheries, its mad charges, its mangled flesh and bones, its raging passions,—in its horrors of the flesh and its more repulsive horrors of the spirit. However noble the causes or aims of any war may be thought to be, its deeds are always, from any high moral point of view, hideously wicked. How can any humane man, any man of conscience and moral sensibility, look these deeds in the face and then consent to go and do them?

These reflections have been occasioned by the war now raging in the Far East, where it has again been proved that "war is the business of hell," where its essential horrors have repeated themselves on a scale and with an intensity that have made the civilized world shudder. If the facts correspond with the reports,—and they are probably much worse,—these horrors have never been surpassed in anything bearing the name of "legitimate" war. But in essence they have had their counterpart in every serious conflict ever waged.

The cutting down of a body of six hundred Japanese, who had raised the white flag, by the Russians, in spite of the flag of truce, and by the Japanese because of it, is, indeed, if the report be true, a ghastly tragedy. But over and over again in savagely contested wars does history record the violation of the white flag. And how does the action of the Japanese in shooting down a body of their own men, who had proposed to surrender, differ in spirit from that of the regimental commander or company captain who, to save his lines from breaking, levels his revolver on a soldier fleeing to the rear, and shoots him dead if he does not continue to fight? And how much baser, tell us honestly, is this reported butchery of six hundred men than the stealthy torpedoing of a great ship which carries down to yawning death six hundred men in one struggling, writhing mass? The one is "legitimate" warfare, the other is not; but which of them, in the name of simple sense, is the baser?

Many of the blood-curdling horrors enacted about Port Arthur and in the vicinity of Liaoyang—men tumbling headlong in masses into blind ditches craftily set with sharpened stakes to impale them, men dying with their teeth set in other men's throats or fingers buried in others' eye-sockets—are only "legitimate" warfare carried to its extreme savagery, and ought to surprise no one who knows the history of war and

has had the courage to let himself see clearly its true nature and spirit.

Under the glass war is always essentially the same horrible phenomenon. Its horrors vary somewhat in form but not in essence. This last war of our civilized era is the same hideous thing as one of the battles in which Romans and Carthaginians, or Huns and Franks, hewed each other to death in huge wind-rows miles long. The horrors of war will some day kill it. Men will reach a point of moral power when they will no longer endure it. They will speak out in unison their deepest thought about it, and under this blasting, withering word the horror of horrors will shrivel to nothingness and disappear. That day is coming, and it is not afar off.

Opening of the Peace Congress.

As we go to press, the Thirteenth International Peace Congress is opening at Boston. It gives promise of being the greatest single demonstration of public opinion in behalf of arbitration and other means of securing the peace of the world ever held. About one hundred and twenty organizations of different kinds in this country and Europe—peace societies, arbitration organizations, Chambers of Commerce, boards of trade, church conferences, labor organizations, women's clubs, teachers' associations, etc.—have forwarded the names of delegates. The number of individuals, not delegates, enrolling themselves as members is extraordinarily large. The total enrollment is likely to reach seven or eight hundred at least. The number of individuals and organizations, which, though not able to be present or to send delegates, have sent the Committee on Organization expressions of strong sympathy and support, has been large beyond all expectation.

The Congress is given unusual significance by the fact that Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State, is representing the United States government in the opening ceremonies. Our next issue, or the next two issues, will contain extended reports of the deliberations, speeches and decisions of the Congress. Our readers may expect, therefore, an unusual treat, and they will do a real service to the great cause for which the Congress is meeting by calling the attention of their friends to the paper.

Editorial Notes.

We reprint in this issue Dr. Noah Worcester's "Solemn Review of War," first published on Christmas day, ninety years ago. It seems most appropriate at this time, when the thirteenth International Peace Congress is being held here in Boston, from which this paper is issued, to set before our readers the great argument against war of